

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire having an innerliner formed of thermoplastic elastomer, comprising the steps of:

heating a surface of a tire building drum in advance;

placing the innerliner on the heated surface of the tire building drum, the innerliner being cylindrically shaped and having a radially outer surface to which an adhesive has been applied;

disposing uncured tire components radially outwardly of the innerliner to form a green tire; and

curing the green tire.

2. (Original) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the step of disposing uncured tire components includes disposing an uncured carcass ply, bead cores and uncured side rubber layers radially outwardly of the innerliner to form a carcass assembly and inflating the carcass assembly in a toroidal shape to press against a radially inner side of a cylindrical belt and tread package having an uncured belt ply and an uncured tread rubber layer.

3. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the adhesive has a glass transition temperature ranged from -20.degree. C. to 30.degree. C.

4. (Original) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein the surface of the tire building drum is heated at a temperature of 40.degree. C. to 60.degree. C. in the step of heating the tire building drum.

5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 or 4~~ claim 1, wherein the innerliner is 80 μ m to 300 μ m in thickness.

6. (Original) A tire building machine comprising a tire building drum that is expandable and contractible, and heating means that can heat a surface of the tire building drum.

7. (Original) A tire building machine according to claim 6, wherein the heating means includes an electric heating element, which is disposed inside the tire building drum.

8. (Original) A tire building machine according to claim 6, wherein the heating means comprises an infrared emitter having light sources for emitting infrared radiation to the surface of the tire building drum.

9. (Original) A tire building machine according to claim 8, wherein the surface of the tire building drum is black in color.

10. (Original) A tire building machine according to claim 6, wherein the heating means comprises a medium heating device having a circulating passage for circulating a heating medium that heats the surface of the tire building drum, the circulating passage being provided inside the tire building drum.

11. (Currently amended) A tire building machine according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~
claim 6, wherein the tire building drum comprises a plurality of drum segments formed of metal.